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New Buffalo Times

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issue 36, volume 83 | www.newbuffalotimes.com | Thursday, September 5, 2024

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IT'S ALL IN THE EYE...

WHIMSICAL ARTWORK REVEALED AT ANNUAL OUTSIDERS OUTSIDE ART SHOW

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PHOTO OFVASSO KOLIZE BY HER TEXTILES AND OTHER ART BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

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Periodical Postage paid in New Buffalo, MI. Postmaster, please send address changes to:
NEW BUFFALO TIMES
PO BOX 369, New Buffalo, MI 49117

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PUBLICATION NUMBER 377960
CIRCULATION 5,000+ WEEKLY

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Berrien County Health Department offering September walk-in clinic for childhood immunizations

The Berrien County Health Department is offering a walk-in clinic this month so parents and guardians can get required back-to-school immunizations for their children without having to make an appointment.

The walk-in vaccination clinic will be offered from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 17, at BCHD's Benton Harbor office, 2149 E. Napier Avenue.

BCHD offered walk-in clinics throughout the summer and recognized the need for an additional clinic in September. These clinics are intended to increase accessibility for community members and ensure their children have proper immunizations for the school year.

"There is still time for parents and caregivers to protect their kids from preventable diseases for the new school year," said Karen Kortebein, public health nurse and school health coordinator at BCHD. "We've created an additional walk-in clinic to make back-to-school vaccines more accessible and convenient for community members. Keeping children up to date on immunizations can help keep them and their classmates healthy throughout the school year."

Preschoolers, kindergarteners and seventh-graders need updated immunizations for the school year.

BCHD also offers school-required immunizations by appointment each Monday and Tuesday at its Benton Harbor office and each Wednesday and Thursday at its Niles office, 1205 Front Street, during business hours: from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Friday. Appointments are still available, and community members can call 269-926-7121 to schedule an appointment.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provides guidance on recommended vaccines for various age groups. In Michigan, vaccines required for school entry include:

- Diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis
- Haemophilus influenzae type B
- Hepatitis B
- Measles, mumps and rubella
- Meningitis
- Pneumococcal
- Polio
- Varicella (chickenpox)

Parents and caregivers are encouraged to connect with their child's primary care provider or the Health Department to discuss vaccinations.

To find a list of vaccinations available through the BCHD and their associated costs, visit www.bchdimmunizations.

For questions, call 269-926-7121.

— STAFF REPORTS

LA PORTE OFFICIAL ARRESTED FOR OWI

The La Porte Park Department Superintendent is facing allegations of driving impaired after pulled over during the Labor Day weekend.

Mark Schreiber, 55, is charged in La Porte Superior Court 3 with operating while intoxicated as a Class A misdemeanor.

Before 12:30 a.m. Monday, Sept. 2, Schreiber was traveling Pine Lake Avenue in La Porte without headlights on, according to La Porte County Police.

A short time later, the officer initiated a traffic stop outside the La Porte Park Department office.

Schreiber stopped the 2017 Chrysler minivan he was driving across multiple parking spaces in the well-lit asphalt parking lot, police said.

After Schreiber stepped out of the vehicle, police said there was an odor of alcohol on his breath and he exhibited symptoms of impairment.

Police said he also admitted to consuming alcoholic beverages prior to getting behind the wheel of the vehicle.

His alleged blood alcohol level was .165 percent.

According to the police report, Schreiber fully cooperated with the investigation.

He's been the La Porte Park Department Superintendent since 2010.

Schreiber could face an up to one year jail sentence.

La Porte Mayor Tom Dermody did not immediately respond to Schreiber's arrest. — STAN MADDUX

The contest for supremacy is now, you're @ the Olympics. Instead of complaining, attend to Reasoning every single situation.
— Dino N. Fatouros

Local Government Meetings

New Buffalo Times

Democracy Requires Transparency

CITY OF NEW BUFFALO
JOHN HUMPHREY, MAYOR
CITY COUNCIL
MARK ROBERTSON, ROGER LIJEWSKI, JOHN HUMPHREY, BRIAN FLANAGAN, VANCE PRICE
City Council meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30PM
CITY OF NEW BUFFALO PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 5:30PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP BOARD
PETE RAHM, MICHELLE HEIT, MICHELLE HANNON, PATTY IAZZETTO, JACK ROGERS
Board meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 4PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30PM
SHERIFF BERRIEN COUNTY
Sheriff, Chuck Heit
Undersheriff, Greg Sanders
NEW BUFFALO AREA RECREATIONAL AUTHORITY
Meets at 10AM on the 2nd Wednesday of every other month (odd) at New Buffalo Township Hall, 17425 Red Arrow Highway New Buffalo
NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS BOARD
LISA WERNER, JOHN HASKINS, DENISE CHURCHILL, BRADLEY BURNER, VANESSA THUN, STEPHEN DONNELLY, GREG VOSBERG
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD
DAVID BUNTE, PAULA DUDIAK, LIZ RETTIG, RICHARD SULLIVAN, BILL MARSKE
Chikaming Board meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30PM
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30PM
THREE OAKS
THREE OAKS TOWNSHIP BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7PM

VILLAGE OF THREE OAKS BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7PM
GRAND BEACH
Meets on the 3rd Wednesday October thru March at 5PM EST
KIMBERLY WOLNIK, CLERK-TREASURER
HARRY WALDER BLAKE O'HALLORAN, JAMES BRACEWELL, PETER DOERR, EDWARD BRANDES
MICHIANA
VILLAGE OF MICHIANA COUNCIL
Meets on the 2nd Friday of each month at 1PM

Rash of unmanned roadside farm stand thefts

BY STAN MADDUX

The stealing of a custom made cart offering fresh eggs from backyard chickens is the latest in a series of recent thefts at unmanned roadside farm stands in Indiana and Michigan.

More than one individual appears to be involved in the rash of thefts in La Porte, Porter and Lake counties and neighboring Berrien County, Michigan.

In one case, the theft of $100 from a deposit box at a produce stand in Wanatah on Aug. 25 was linked to an older woman, who was further described as being white and, based on the footage of a surveillance camera, having no teeth.

The footage also showed she pulled up in an older model red Dodge Journey with a dented rear bumper.

So far, there have been no arrests reported in any of the thefts.

La Porte County Sheriff Ron Heeg said whether it's the work of a ring was not known but he didn't rule it out.

Heeg called the acts "pretty sad," and whoever is responsible "desperate."

Each of the roadside stands were unmanned, trusting people to place their money into a container for the fresh produce or whatever else they purchased.

Police said the deposit box at the stand in Wanatah was locked but forced open to retrieve the money inside.

"That's what's more troubling than anything that we can't work on the honor system here anymore. There's got to be somebody who's going to take advantage of it and ruin it for the rest of us," he said.

Another case on Aug. 25 in Union Mills involved the theft of three decorative pumpkins, nine batches of cookies along with a number of room sprays, candles and wax melts from a roadside farm stand on 800 South.

The stolen items were valued at $340, police said.

Police said roadside farm stand thefts in Demotte, Indiana, and Galien, Michigan, occurred before the ones reported in La Porte County.

Each of the roadside stands were unmanned, trusting people to place their money into a container for the fresh produce or whatever else they purchased.

The roadside egg cart was taken Wednesday night from a home on Marquette Street near the La Porte County Fairgrounds.

A security camera on the property shows two men described as being white and wearing dark clothing getting out of an older model Chevy S-10 or Ford Ranger and placing the wooden egg cart in the bed of the pick-up truck.

Owner Jeff Rancatore said the stand he made himself also contained a built in cooler to keep his eggs fresh for customers.

He placed a jar on the cart for customers to deposit their money into for the eggs from the 20 chickens at his residence just outside the city limits.

Rancatore said there were no eggs or money in the cart, which weighed about 100 pounds at the time it was stolen.

The footage shows the thieves never looked for any eggs or money before loading the cart into the bed of the truck and leaving in less than two minutes.

Rancatore said his night vision camera was too far away, though, to get a clearer view of the suspects.

Until he builds another cart, he plans to set a cooler on his front porch for customers to reach in and grab eggs, along with a container for them to place money into.

Rancatore said he'll keep the new stand closer to his house so it's near his security camera to help identify suspects in the event of another theft.

Rancatore, 54, said selling eggs became a hobby after he purchased his first ever flock of 20 birds in the spring at the request of his wife, who also never had chickens.

Unless they're roaming in his yard, the birds are kept in a coop that he built from scratch.

"This is new to us. Just like gardening. A couple of years ago, she wanted a big garden so, now, we have a big garden and chickens," he said.

With delight, Rancatore said his first dive into keeping chickens has been well worth it in more ways than one.

"They're entertaining beyond belief and very soothing. You know, destressing. Comic relief, sure is," he said.

All human actions have one or more of these seven causes: chance, nature, compulsions, habit, reason, passion, desire.
— Aristotle

SCHOLASTICS

Melissa Lijewski assumes role as leader of New Buffalo Elementary School

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Walking through the hallways of New Buffalo Elementary School as a student, Melissa Lijewski would often dream about being a teacher.

Being a principal, though, wouldn't be in her line of vision until many years later.

"That's kind of a new aspiration - but I'm super excited to be here and to be leading the school that I attended," she said.

A 2000 graduate of New Buffalo High School, Lijewski was hired as the new principal of New Buffalo Elementary School this past spring.

Excluding one year of teaching in South Bend, Lijewski has been at the elementary school for her entire teaching career. For seven years, she was the Title 1 coordinator. Prior to that, she taught first, second and fourth grades.

After obtaining her bachelor's degree from Western Michigan University, Lijewski obtained her masters degree in elementary literacy from Walden University and then her administrator's certification through the Michigan Association of Secondary Principals.

As the previous Title I coordinator, Lijewski enjoyed promoting reading among students. She was there for the installation of two vending machines, one for the lower elementary students and one for the upper ones, that are full of books. A result of a partnership between the New Buffalo Elementary School PTO and The Rotary Club of Harbor Country and The Pokagon Fund, the machines allow students to receive free books five times a year: at the beginning and end of the year, on their birthdays, for March is Reading Month and before winter break.

"I always wanted to be an instructional coach or literacy specialist - which is basically what the Title 1 position was, so teaching kids to read was my strength," Lijewski said.

As the new leader of the school, Lijewski hopes to "create a positive climate culture for the students and the staff, so there's a learning environment that's positive for students and optimal learning can take place."

New Buffalo Elementary School Principal Melissa Lijewski is ready for the 2024-2025 school year

"I think our goals as a building are just to continue to provide rigorous learning opportunities for students and to fully implement our PBIS model to encourage positive behavior with students and to continue engaging within the community and with our families," she said.

One way Lijewski said that the school will be keeping the lines of communication open with families is through Thrillshare, which will allow each school to share information on one common platform.

"So if you have students in multiple buildings, it will be kind of easier to see what's happening across the district - I think it'll streamline that communication with families and the community," she said.

Also new is Character Strong, which will be used by the school's new guidance counselor, Keri Haskins.

"Our guidance counselor will be using a new curriculum this year, which is kind of exciting because we have kind of piecemealed them together up until now," Lijewski said.

Haskins isn't the only new face: This year, Lijewski said that they'll be welcoming 10 new staff members that are either brand-new to the building or new to a role this year, which is a "remarkable amount."

"I'm looking forward to working with the staff to continue to provide a positive education department for the students...Since we had a lot of leadership change last year, I'm excited for the consistency we're going to have to build this year," Lijewski said.

Lijewski also looks forward to working with the other principals in the two other schools, New Buffalo Middle School Principal Dan Caudle and New Buffalo High School Principal Tracy Ripley. She also looks forward to working with New Buffalo Area Schools Superintendent Adam Bowen, who she's worked side by side with in the past. Both she and Bowen also graduated in the same New Buffalo High School class.

"I have a lot of support and a lot of great people to learn from - they have a lot of experience and knowledge to share with me, so I'm excited to collaborate with them and learn from them," she said.

Lijewksi also hopes to continue to learn from the students - their needs and desires as they move forward in their educational careers.

"Every decision I make will be with students in mind," she said.

Early morning fire heavily damages house

BY STAN MADDUX

A house was heavily damaged by fire Tuesday, Sept. 3, in La Porte.

Firefighters after 5 a.m. were called to 508 W. 11 Street near Handley Elementary School by a neighbor, who woke up to the site of a "a glow," said La Porte Fire Chief Andy Snyder.

Snyder said nobody was living in the home because it was still being renovated after a fire about two years ago.

Snyder said the flames were in the process of engulfing one side of the two-story structure when firefighters arrived within minutes after being dispatched.

"Crews found fire through the entire east side of the structure as well fire through the roof at the time," he said.

Eventually, the fire burned completely through one side of the exterior, allowing heat from the flames that were shooting a good distance from the hole to melt the vinyl siding on the entire side of a house about 20 feet away from a lot next door.

Snyder said the occupants of the house with the melted siding escaped safely.

There were no injuries.

Snyder said the owner of the house that caught fire was there earlier in the morning but left for work prior to the discovery of the blaze.

Since it was not being lived in during the ongoing renovation, he said the house had no natural gas or electrical service.

No utility service raised suspicions on whether the fire was possibly the work of an arsonist but Snyder would not speculate on the cause.

"We'll have to wait and see," he said.

The Indiana State Fire Marshal's Office was contacted to assist in trying to determine how the fire started due to the lack of utility service and extent of the damage.

Snyder said a curling iron that was left on was believed to be the cause of the previous fire at the house.

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RIBBON TO BE CUT AT BARNDOGG LOUNGE

The Harbor Country Chamber of Commerce will hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new casual coffee lounge and cocktail bar, Barndogg, at 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 14.

The public is invited to join in the fun at the social spot located at 15972 Red Arrow Highway, Union Pier. Grand Opening guests will enjoy complimentary samples of a barbecue spread featuring smoked pulled pork, brisket, and corn on the cob. Acoustic music will contribute to the event's lively atmosphere.

The bar radiates a warm and rustic French country style ambiance inviting all who come through its doors to sit back, relax and enjoy a top-quality beverage. The drink menu is centered around expertly mixed cocktails made with top-shelf liquors. A variety of craft brewed beers and Truly hard seltzers are on tap. Furry friends are welcome to enjoy the dog-friendly outdoor patio.

Owners Carrie and Terry Stoklosa took great care during construction to add creative touches and build a welcoming vibe. The high-top lounge tables were handcrafted using wood rounds from a deteriorating 100-year-old Oak in the front yard, giving the tree a second life. Beach stones and dried flora were incorporated, suspended within the acrylic art piece, which took a month to complete.

The coffee lounge features a large leather couch set before a stacked stone fireplace, providing a cozy spot for coffee enthusiasts to savor a freshly brewed cup and a baked treat.

Barndogg fans can take home a souvenir from their whimsical retail line, including t-shirts, mugs, and coasters. The business name Barndogg, was selected as a tribute to a beloved pet named Molly.

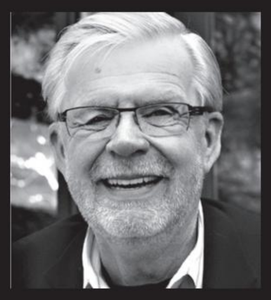
"Our beautiful rescue cane corso would flop down and roll around in the dirty sand while we sat around the firepit at our Harbert home and her daddy just shook his head and called her a dirty girl saying she should be a barn dog… and that was when our logo was born," Carrie said.

The convenient location at 15972 Red Arrow Highway sits upon the non-motorized pathway. For more information about Barndogg, visit their Facebook or Instagram, or call 269-231-5930. — STAFF REPORTS

SPORTS

From the Bleachers

COLUMN BY KURT MARGGRAF IN CHICAGO



I can hardly believe it. ,

Today is the first of September and at the conclusion of all the Major League Baseball games today, the Chicago Cubs are only three games out of a wildcard playoff berth.

Having a decent chance to make the playoffs seemed like a pipe dream a few short weeks ago, but all of a sudden the Cubs started playing like many of us thought they should have been playing all season long.

The beginning of the season went well, but after about a month, things started to fall apart. There were a few bright spots, but the team seemed to be floundering. They would look good for a couple of days, and then would be lackluster for a few. It got to the point that the front office, manager, and even the players, seemed to be playing for next year.

Being a longtime Cub fan, "wait till next year" is a phrase I've heard almost every season of my life, and this year seemed to be just like almost every other.

With the White Sox having a historically bad season and the Cubs seemingly going through the motions, baseball in Chicago was bad, and even worse, it was boring.

The Cubs seemed to wake up in a most unusual way. One of their best players, Cody Bellinger, got injured and the team decided to play rookie Peter Crow Armstrong for the rest of the season.

In the beginning, it wasn't very pretty. Armstrong couldn't hit worth a lick and he was so aggressive in the field that he hurt the team as often as he helped it.

After he started to settle down, Pete started to hit a little and started to be an asset in the field. Now that he was hitting, he was on base more often and started stealing bases. His aggressiveness seemed to rub off on his teammates, and all of a sudden, the team was playing really well and winning much more often.

A couple of weeks ago, he hit an inside the park home run, and soon after hit another homer, this one well over 400 feet. Today, the Cubs won 14-1 to inch closer to the playoffs. Twenty-five games remain in the regular season and I think that even if they miss the postseason this year, they will, no really they will, be a team worth waiting until next year for.

Once again, this month will be a huge one for Chicago sports fans. The Bears season opener is Sunday and the city can hardly wait.

The Cubs, believe it or not, have a chance to make the playoffs. The Sox already have lost more games than they have in their history, and could end up with more losses than any team ever. The Bulls and Blackhawks will report to camp with optimism.

It's great to be a sports fan.

Winston Churchill said, "A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty."

Be kind. Talk to you next week. Peace, love, and happiness.

Spring Creek seeking volunteers to 'help horses help kids'

Spring Creek Horses Help Foundation, located in Three Oaks, is recruiting volunteers and will hold a New Volunteer Training from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 21.

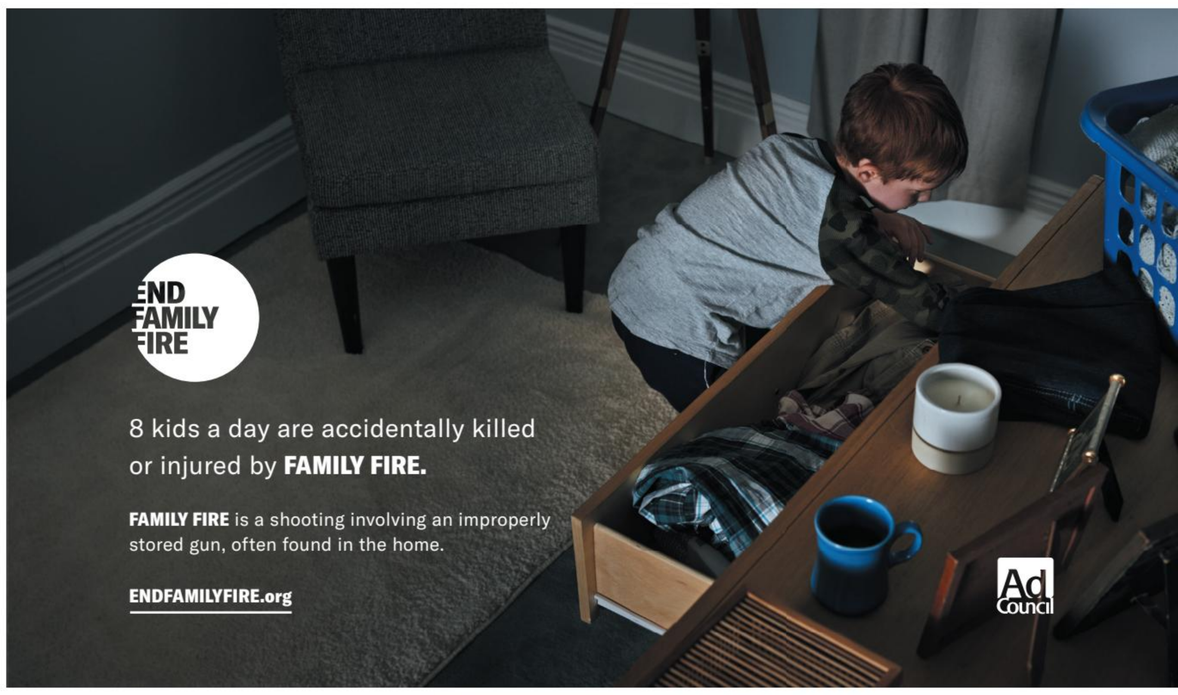
Spring Creek Horses Help Foundation is a nonprofit organization that provides an equine-assisted learning program on horse behavior, how to care for a horse and how to ride to local, under-resourced children, adults, and families. While working with horses, participants build critical life skills, such as confidence, responsibility, teamwork and empathy for animals.

Those who are interested in having fun while helping the foundation's horses help kids can join us as a volunteer to make a difference in the lives of others. Volunteers are trained to work with children while they learn to groom, tack, and ride a horse. Children attend three-hour classes on Fridays and Saturdays in the spring and fall.

Volunteers must be adults with horse experience. Spring Creek is gearing up for its fall classes and the training will be held at Spring Creek Equestrian Center, 16771 Pardee Road in Three Oaks.

One must register to attend. To register, text Alison at 269-756-3894 or email her at info@springcreekhorseshelp.org. Contact the Foundation with any questions regarding volunteer opportunities.

To learn more about volunteering for Spring Creek Horses Help Foundation, visit www.springcreekhorseshelp.org/be-a-volunteer. — STAFF REPORTS


END FAMILY FIRE
8 kids a day are accidentally killed or injured by FAMILY FIRE.
FAMILY FIRE is a shooting involving an improperly stored gun, often found in the home.
ENDFAMILYFIRE.org
Ad Council

Do not train a child to learn by force or harshness; but direct them to it by what amuses their minds, so that you may be better able to discover with accuracy the peculiar bent of the genius of each. — *Plato*

Raiders lose season opener to powerhouse Mendon

BY STAN MADDUX

The Red Arrow Raiders showed early life in its season opener at home Thursday, Aug. 29, but fell hard to Mendon, a high school football program with 13 state championships.

The final score was 60-0.

Mendon scored its first touchdown early in the first quarter on three running plays after recovering a fumble at the Raiders' 21 yard line caused by a sack of quarterback Ethan Lijewski.

Quickly, the Raiders stormed back.

A 37 yard running gain by speedy M'Nason Smothers followed by 30 yard run on a quarterback keeper from Lijewski took the ball to the nine yard line of Mendon.

However, Lijewski forced out of the pocket was sacked and fumbled again.

In response, Nick Stiver picked up the ball and ran it 90 yards along sidelines for a Mendon touchdown.

The Hornets never looked back from then on, dominating the Raiders with their noticeable difference in size, speed and strength.

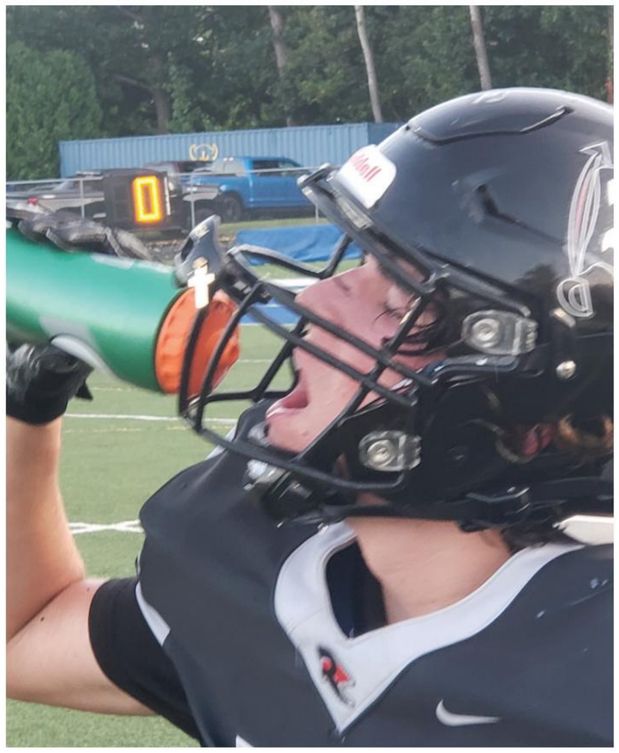
Owen Gorham scored next for the Hornets with a 24 yard touchdown run that he made look easy.

His twin brother, quarterback Ryder Gorham, was next to make his way through the Raider defense like a tornado for a 27 yard touchdown run.

Mendon led 46-0 at halftime.

For the game, the Hornets racked up 19 first downs compared to four first downs for the Raiders.

Mendon looked like a team on a mission in response to a first round playoff defeat last year after winning its 13th state title the previous season.



HIKERS RETURN TO CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP PARK AND PRESERVE

The Harbor Country Hikers will visit Chikaming Township Park and Preserve for a hike at 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 14.

The theme of the hike, to be led by Hikers President Pat Fisher, is "Cloud Gazing." Fisher will explain what various cloud formations predict about the weather.

The park and preserve, located on Warren Woods Road in Three Oaks, offers over 263 acres with at least eight distinct ecosystems and miles of hiking trails. The venue is popular with hikers, birders, dog walkers, fishermen and trail bikers, and includes plots for gardeners.

The Sept. 14 hike will take about two hours, including a 10-minute introduction, and cover approximately two miles of trail. Its physical difficulty is rated easy to moderate. Although membership is preferred, this event is open to all. The Hikers recommends those who attend wear long pants, sturdy shoes or boots and a cap or hat for the sun. Insect repellent and water are also recommended

For more information about this hike, including driving directions, visit www.harborcountryhikers.com or the group's Facebook page. — STAFF REPORTS

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Hesston Steam Museum debuts new exhibits during Steam and Power Show

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Throughout its more than 100 year old existence, the Avery Steam Tractor has been on quite a journey.

Hesston Steam Museum General Manager Ted Rita said that the engine was built in 1911 by Avery Power Machinery Company in Peoria, Illinois, for an 8,000 acre ranch in Nebraska.

"The farmer there was convinced that they could plow and cultivate a sand ranch, so that whole ranch was just sand and, within the first week that they used the Avery, they buried it down to a firebox - the wheels had slipped and dug in and they couldn't get it out," he said.

Rita said the Avery only ran for a week before being abandoned on the ranch, with the plow behind it, and "it was covered over by sand."

In the 1950s, a couple individuals from Ohio unearthed it after about a month of searching on the land.

After excavating it out, they bought it from the two sons that owned it from their dad and hauled it to Ohio. In the late 1960s and early 1970s, it arrived at Hesston, where it was dismantled for restoration; however, it was never restored.

In 1994, it was sold to someone in Buckley, Michigan.

Last winter, Rita said talks began for that individual to sell it back to Hesston.

Rita said that they were able to acquire the Avery with a loan from Horizon Bank, adding that the museum is now seeking donations to defer that loan.

"It was a once in a lifetime chance to get it back...There were several individuals and museums that wanted it but the owner that restored it thought that this was the best home for it to be displayed to the public," Rita said.

He added that the Avery only has about 1,000 days of use out of it, so the engine is still brand new. It can also develop 120 horsepower and weighs 25 tons.

The Avery was one of three new attractions that were featured at this year's Steam and Power Show, which took place Friday through Monday, Aug. 31-Sept. 2.

On one end of the museum's grounds was the Dean Graham and Son Blacksmiths and Fitters, the new blacksmith shop exhibit.

Wyatt Foley acts as the apprentice in the new blacksmith exhibit

Logs are cut with a 60 inch blade at the steam sawmill

The 1911 Avery Steam Tractor makes an appearance in the Parade of Power

Tom Rohder explains the art of blacksmithing

Various steam engines were alive and running

The steam traction machine is on display in Steam Works

Guests view a threshing demonstration

The Minneapolis rides in the Parade of Power

Jay Ritschard, who heads the agricultural department, and Hesston General Manager Ted Rita stand by the 1911 Avery Steam Tractor

Ray Rantz, Brendan Stephens and Matthew Russell stand by the Cretor's steam powered popcorn machine in Steamworks

Trains pull up at Hesston Junction

An exterior view of the new blacksmith's exhibit

Volunteers work on a threshing demonstration Sunday afternoon

A parade of tractors participates in the Parade of Power

Rita said the exhibit was made possible through a donation from the Graham family. Falatovics Construction helped with the site work and MilMar Post Buildings in La Porte built the structure. The museum's buildings and grounds department put in the electrical.

The new exhibit features demonstrations on the art of blacksmithing from museum volunteers and shows how steam power improved the methodology of steel forging across the world.

"I think it really points the direction of how our exhibits will be in the future, with more interaction and really getting to the mission that we're trying to illustrate and demonstrate to people is how steam changed the world in every profession, every aspect, of our lives and improved the quality of life for everyone globally," Rita said.

Volunteer Tom Rohder was being aided in the shop by Wyatt Foley, who was visiting his grandparents from Kalamazoo.

Rohder said that 11-year-old is about right age that boys would start an apprenticeship back in the day.

The apprenticeship program first started in Europe, where a boy would start working under a journeyman or a master to learn the trade.

"They'd learn the trade from somebody with more experience and once they'd reached the point where they could go out on their own - they'd go on a journey, they'd look for a place to start their own business," he said.

Also opened was the Steamworks Exhibit Gallery. A work in progress, Rita said that doors were recently added to the exhibit.

Volunteer Brendan Stephens said that the exhibit is "kind of a collection of all the smaller things that make up the larger things out there (on the museum's grounds.)"

"It's a demonstration as to what we can use steam for - some of the innovations and technology and what came before and after steam power," he said.

Included in the displays is the steam traction engine model made in the 1970s as well as the 1893 C. Cretor's Steam Powered Popcorn Wagon.

The device was introduced by Charlie Cretors SR at the 1893 Columbian Exposition in Chicago.

Stevens said the Cretor company got together with a company in Chicago to make a purpose built steam engine just for the realtor popcorn wagon.

"So this is our smallest steam engine here that's purpose built and not just a model - it's one of the few things I'll operate under steam here," he said.

Roger Rudich displays artwork he purchased at Friday's reception

Livia Gazzolo and Reynldo Certain provide the entertainment Friday night

Whimsical art is on display at the show

Guests gather at the Outsiders show on opening night

Guests view artwork underneath one of the many tents

Whimsical artwork revealed at annual Outsiders Outside Art Show

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Even after 29 years, Judith Racht still tries to keep guests guessing at the Outsiders Outside Art Show.

"I always save places for new people because I want to keep the show fresh," she said, adding that she also reserves spots for artists who have been with her from the beginning.

The show, which took place this year Friday through Sunday, Aug. 31-Sept. 2 outside the Judith Racht Art Gallery in Harbert, celebrates the whimsical work of self taught artists from around the country as well as the world.

"The work is so interesting - I think, 'I wonder where they got that idea,'" Racht said.

Even long before the Labor Day weekend show and opening her gallery, which is the former two-room Harbert School, Racht loved helping artists show off their work. She worked for John Wilson, who started the Navy Pier Art Exposition.

"When I started to work on my own, I just decided that I would do an outsiders show because I was finding those kinds of things at auctions," she said.

At the show, customers don't need to shell out a lot of money for something they love.

"You don't have to spend a million dollars on something that makes your heart happy," she said.

Longtime artist Theresa Disney, who hails from St. Louis, Missouri, sold 180 paintings at the show one year.

"Fun, happy, playful, colorful and just pure joy" is how Disney would describe her acrylic paintings.

She said she's been painting "forever," and even started her own face painting enterprise when she was in seventh grade called "Smiles Unlimited."

While she had a scholarship to the Chicago Art Institute, she realized that the traditional classroom setting wasn't for her.

"I went to one class and I was like, 'I'm not going to sit here and you're telling me what I feel or see,'" she said, adding that she didn't have time for the other requisite classes like English.

Jennifer Fish from Heartworks Designs had returned, as well as husband and wife artistic duo Barbara and Jay Zoern had arrived from Austin, Texas, for their second year at the show.

The couple was displaying Barbara's abstract art on canvas and paper, their mid-century modern birdhouses and charcuterie boards.

"We have fun building them," Barbara said of the birdhouses, adding that it's also "labor intensive."

Charcuterie boards were built by Jay from a live oak tree that got hit by an ice storm.

To repurpose them, Jay said he dried the oak for a year. It was where the wood eventually split that he laid the turquoise paint hand.

"I sand it down and use a black epoxy to hold the turquoise but when I'm doing it, I have no idea what it's going to look like - then, when I sand it, it reveals itself," he said.

Guests view the unique artwork inside the tents

Guests view the whimsical artwork that was on display

Barbara and Jay Zoern stand by their mid-century birdhouses

Guests view the work of Matt Swenson

Christie Chew-Wallace stands by her acrylic paintings from her C.C.'s Art Garage and Gallery

Christie Chew-Wallace stands by her acrylic paintings from her C.C.'s Art Garage and Gallery

Eric and Theresa Disney stand by Theresa's acrylic paintings

Guests enjoy beverage from the Michiana Humane Society's cash bar Friday night

Jennifer Fish with her display of work she brought from a women's cooperative in CapeTown, South Africa

CHARGES IN LUNCH TRAY ATTACK IN JAIL

Charges are filed in connection with a La Porte County Jail inmate seriously injured when punched and hit with a lunch tray by another offender.

Jordan Wasy, 24, is charged in La Porte Circuit Court with Level 5 felony battery.

According to court documents, Kenneth Keller was taken to Northwest Health in La Porte after a jail officer after the alleged attack noticed him vomiting blood.

Keller, 55, was transferred to Community Health Hospital in Munster where he began receiving treatment for a fractured orbital, which are the bones that make up the eye socket, along with a minor brain bleed and laceration to his eye, court records disclosed.

The investigation revealed Keller on Monday walked from his cell to a table where Wasy was eating his dinner.

During an exchange of words, Wasy allegedly stood up and struck Keller in the face with his plastic lunch tray.

He then punched Keller twice to the head area, police said.

Wasy suffered a laceration to his right eyebrow during what turned into a fight between the offenders.

In January, Wasy wound up in the jail on allegations of using a counterfeit $50 bill to purchase three packs of cigarettes at the Speedway station at U.S. 35 and U.S. 20, police said.

Wasy, listed as homeless at the time, was given a pre-trial release on his own recognizance several days later.

However, he was taken back into custody on separate occasions for repeated violations of the terms of his court ordered release, according to court records.

Keller of Knox was in the jail on allegations he violated the terms of his probation on a child molesting conviction from 2022, court records showed.

Wasy could face anywhere from a one to six year sentence. — STAN MADDUX

La Porte City Council approves purchase agreement with conservancy district

BY STAN MADDUX

The La Porte City Council unanimously approved a purchase agreement with the 39 North Conservancy District Tuesday, Sept. 3.

City Attorney Nick Otis said the city will pay $2 million to the 150 property owners in the district for existing underground lines the district paid to have installed to provide municipal water service from the city of La Porte.

Water service is credited for the noticeable growth in industrial and residential development that's occurred along Indiana 39 since the district was formed in the late 1990's.

Otis said payment from the city will be in the form of credits on the utility bills of district property owners.

In some cases, Otis said the amount of monthly credits will vary greatly depending on whether a customer is a heavy industrial user or property owner with more invested from being in the district for a much longer period of time than other property owners.

Otis said the payment is not being made with cash because doing so for a municipality in such arrangements is prohibited.

"We can't give cash out to property owners by law," he said.

The credits will be given from anywhere between five years and 15 years depending on the amount owed to each district property owner.

Under the agreement, the city will receive $500,000 from the district's existing $660,000 cash balance.

In March, the city annexed the district after a majority of property owners signed petitions supporting the move.

In exchange, the city will make an estimated $12 million in upgrades to the existing infrastructure for the purpose of increasing water flows.

Demand for water caused by development has left the system unable to serve additional customers, which held back plans for more industrial and residential development in the district.

A distribution center and assisted living facility have been approved since the annexation because of the city's commitment to improve water capacity in the newly incorporated area.

Mayor Tom Dermody said the annexation will be something looked upon favorably in the years to come because of district landowners receiving better water capacity and the additional land that's opening up for development as a result.

"This is something for the future that will be remembered," he said.

Otis said the annexation also lifts a financial burden from property owners no longer facing the possibility of paying for the water system improvements themselves.

OBITUARIES

James Bernard Schwark

1940-2024

James Bernard Schwark, 84, of Michigan City, Indiana, formerly a lifelong resident of Three Oaks, died peacefully, Saturday, August 24, 2024, in the presence of his family.

His life began July 16, 1940, in Michigan City, Indiana, the only child born to Bernard and Dorothy Schwark.

Jim was a deeply devout man of the catholic faith. He cherished and dedicated himself to his sons and grandsons. He had a positive effect on the lives of his friends and family. Jim never met a stranger. He always had a kind word, good advice, a friendly smile, or a joke to get a laugh for anyone who was willing to lend an ear.

James will be greatly missed by family and friends. He is survived by two sons, Scott (Melissa) Schwark of Chesterton, Indiana, Rob Schwark of Galien; two grandsons, Aaron Schwark of Michigan City, Indiana, Grifin (Faith) Schwark of Valparaiso, Indiana; and a host of cousins, extended relatives, and lifelong friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Family and friends will gather Thursday evening, September 5, 2024, from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m., at Wagner Family Funerals, located at 106 Ash Street East, Three Oaks. A Mass of Christian burial will be held at 11:00 a.m., Friday, September 6, 2024, at St. Mary of the Assumption, located at 28 West Ash Street, Three Oaks.

James will be laid to rest in Forest Lawn Cemetery.

The family prefers contributions in memory of James be made to St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church, 28 West Ash Street, Three Oaks, MI 49128.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Pobocik Chapel, Three Oaks. Please share a memory or a message online at www.wagnercares.com.

HOROSCOPE

SEPTEMBER 5-11, 2024

AS INTERPRETED BY SANDY "STAR" BENDT

ARIES MARCH 21—APRIL 19

Be aware that health issues may flare up this week. Don't panic. This is your opportunity to take more control over what is happening and reign in your strength. Put in the extra efforts to prepare and trust in your abilities to go the distance. Dig in and get the positive energy established.

TAURUS APRIL 20—MAY 20

There will be a lot to get done this week and the people you would like to count on may not be available now. Thankfully you will be ready for the challenge and you will rely on your own ingenuity and creativity to pull through this one. This is merely one step in the initiation process.

GEMINI MAY 21—JUNE 21

There may be some tension at home this week. Family members or roommates may not want to connect with you one-on-one now, which may add to the tension. Rather than focusing on what you need from them, dig into what you need to do to feel good about yourself.

CANCER JUNE 22—JULY 22

Even though you may experience a sense of stagnation or feel that situations beyond your control are keeping you from accomplishing projects. Don't get discouraged. Take the down time to dig into your belief systems and focus on what you want most out of situations.

LEO JULY 23—AUGUST 22

There is a miserly vibe to the week ahead. Whether money is tight or there is a sense of having to account for other people's spending habits, don't go off the deep end. Now is the time when you will have the ability to make more money or even land a better job. There's a silver-lining for you, Tiger.

VIRGO AUGUST 23—SEPTEMBER 22

It will be easy to be overly hard on yourself this week. When you get overly anxious, ask for help from family or loved ones. Don't alienate yourself; get others involved. Your creative juices are flowing and what better way to spend time with people, than working on a project.

LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23—OCTOBER 22

Communications may not go as smoothly as you had hoped this week and tensions with coworkers could ensue. The good news is the vibes coming at you from the stars are encouraging you to step back and spend some time at home, tucked away, making apple pie.

SCORPIO OCTOBER 23—NOVEMBER 21

You might feel a little at odds with your friends or social circle this week. Money issues or a clash of value systems may present itself. The good news is your ability to talk things out and perceive things on a deeper level will help you resolve issues amicably

SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22—DECEMBER 21

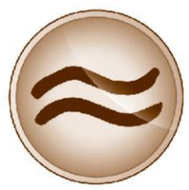
You will not want to take responsibility or cover for other people any longer. Even if it affects your social standing, you cannot compromise your sense of self-worth. Your sense of integrity is very important now and if the truth hurts, then let it hurt. Hold onto that deeper perspective now.

.

CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22—JANUARY 19

There is a real sense of having to go it alone. Whether you feel the need to travel the globe or just journey inward on your yoga matt, sometimes it's best to do it on your own. So, you can find meaning for your life. Harness your inner guide and make that journey up the mountain.

AQUARIUS JANUARY 20—FEBRUARY 18



Things could get quite intense with friends this week. Be careful not to exert too much force or try to dominate the situation. There is a sense of having to keep secrets or having to keep some of your ideas to yourself now. Negativity is very draining all parties involved.

PISCES FEBRUARY 19—MARCH 20

There will be a stirring of the pot this week, giving you a chance to see how strong your connections to others really are. Even if things get bumped around, trust in the friendship you have and the connection that goes beyond physical. Don't get all high and mighty.

The most precious of all possessions is power over ourselves. — *John Locke*

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Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.

			9		8			4
9		8				1		
6	4	2	1		7		8	
		4					1	
			7		2			6
4	7	6	3		1		9	8
		1					3	
	3	9			4	7		

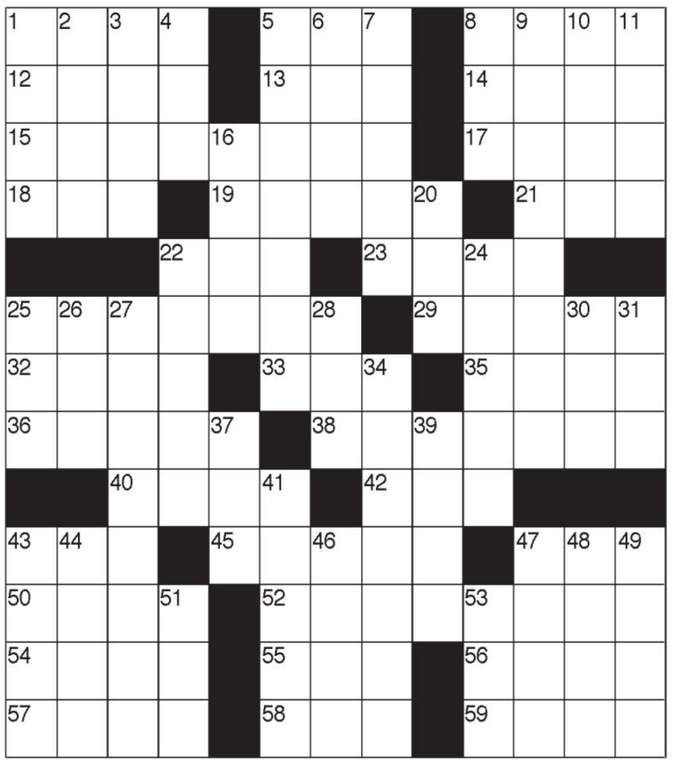
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 Border
5 System (abbr.)
8 Nail with a hole
12 Geological vein angle
13 Buddhist column
14 Kemo ____
15 Renegade
17 Isle of Napoleon
18 To or from a distance (pref.)
19 Fishing leader
21 Disfigure
22 Isle
23 Assuage
25 Travel
29 Eight
32 Fraction of a rupee
33 Benedictine title
35 Hindu soul
36 Monsieurs (abbr.)
38 Giant
40 Peacock blue
42 Child's seat
43 Palestine Liberation Organ. (abbr.)
45 Ruby spinel
47 Greek letter
50 Joining bar
52 Horned viper
54 Noble (Ger.)
55 Portuguese coin
56 Cure
57 Conrad's "Victory" heroine
58 Age
59 Mother of Brunhilde

DOWN

1 Minstrel of India
2 Sexual assault
3 Heathen god
4 Fr. pronoun
5 Oblique
6 Eucalyptus tree
7 Milestone
8 Compass direction
9 Sabal
10 Eastern bishop's title
11 Endearment
16 Chin. dynasty
20 Indo-Chin. language
22 Military macaw
24 Rogue
25 Stoppage
26 Switch positions
27 Tacit
28 ___ Kippur
30 Danish county
31 Burmese knife
34 Chills and fever
37 Weep
39 Cornmeal
41 Mother-of-pearl
43 Pelvis (pref.)
44 Mineral deposit
46 Ogle
47 Wing (pref.)
48 Nob
49 Key
51 Guido's note (2 words)
53 Haggard novel



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Dunes Summer Theatre to present 'Voices from the Heartland'

Dunes Summer Theatre announces its second annual New Plays Festival, "Voices from the Heartland," with one week of performances Wednesday through Saturday, Sep. 18-21 at 7 p.m. (central) and Sunday, Sept. 22, at 2 p.m. (central).

In addition, the Dunes Summer Theatre will present special performances of Heidi Schreck's Pulitzer Prize finalist play, "What the Constitution Means to Me," Saturday, Sept. 21, at 2 p.m. and Sunday, Sept. 22, at 7 p.m. (Central).

"Voices from the Heartland" is the Dunes Summer Theatre's annual showcase of new plays by writers in northwest Indiana and southwest Michigan, presented as in concert readings.

"We had so many wonderful plays submitted this year that we expanded the Festival from four nights to five, including historically-based dramas, off-the-wall comedies and a one-act thriller. It'll be a great opportunity for our audiences to experience these fresh new works and give their ideas for further development to each playwright," DST Artistic Director Steve Scott said.

Performances will include an audience talkback with the writer, led by DST Dramaturg Annaliese McSweeney.

The full listing of performances for the week can be found at dunesARTS.org.

Tickets are $10 per show or $35 for entry into all performances for the full five nights.

Showtimes for "What the Constitution Means to Me" are Saturday, 2 p.m. CST and Sunday 7 p.m. CST. Tickets are $35 each, $25 four or more and can be purchased at dunesARTS.org

Playwright Heidi Schreck's boundary-breaking play, "What the Constitution Means to Me," is a playful and incisive analysis of gender and racial biases inherent to the U.S. Constitution that examines how this living document could evolve to fit modern America. The piece is based on the experiences of 15-year-old Heidi Schreck, who put herself through college by giving speeches about the U.S. Constitution. Now, she resurrects her teenage self in order to trace the document's profound impact on women's bodies—starting with her great-great-grandmother, a mail-order bride who died under mysterious circumstances.

Performances will be followed with a discussion with the audience and producers. Four or more tickets bought at the same time online are $25 ($10 off regular price).

All shows take place at Dunes Summer Theatre at 288 Shady Oak Drive in Michigan City. Bar and concessions open one hour prior to curtain. Pepe's Fork in the Road Mexican Food Truck will be on site in Dunes Theatre parking lot one hour before show time. — STAFF REPORTS

PETS OF THE WEEK

ROWAN & MAGGIE

Guinea pigs Rowan and Maggie are both just over two years old. Rowan is a neutered male, so that's why he is allowed to have a girlfriend. Both piggies are super sweet, but Maggie is especially outgoing and lovable. Rowan and Maggie would make awesome family pets, as they are very easy to handle, and good with children at home.

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8	9	5	7	1	2	3	4	6
4	7	6	3	2	1	5	9	8
5	8	1	6	7	9	4	3	2
2	3	9	5	8	4	7	6	1

B	R	I	M	■	S	Y	S	■	S	P	A	D
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J	O	U	R	N	E	Y	■	O	C	T	A	D
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Local deputies graduate from academies

Berrien County Sheriff Chuck Heit is proud to announce that four deputies graduated Aug. 28.

Deputy Destiny Russell and Deputy Jacob Sherrick graduated from a local corrections officer training academy held at the Genessee County Sheriff's Office.

This is a 160 hour academy offering a comprehensive, interactive instruction program in various disciplines for local correction officers. Training topics include custody and security, defensive tactics, CPR, AED, and first aid training, suicide awareness, fire safety, and interpersonal communication. The academy is certified by the Michigan Sheriff's Coordinating and Training Council and is an important element of providing the necessary skills for maintaining a safe, secure environment for corrections officers, inmates, and county residents.

Deputy Destiny Russell was chosen as class speaker and received the Academic Excellence Award.

Deputy Brandon Rath and Deputy Lucas Runser graduated from the 2024 Lake Michigan College Police Academy.

This is a 16 week police academy that offers a comprehensive training program, with the graduates being licensed through the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES). Training topics include physical fitness and wellness, defensive tactics, criminal and constitutional law, firearms training, emergency vehicle operation, interpersonal communication, among other topics. The police academy provides the foundation for the basic skills necessary for new officers to protect and serve their community.

Deputy Brandon Rath received the Emergency Vehicle Operations Award, while Deputy Lucas Runser received the Top Gun Award.

All of the graduates will continue to learn through the agency's field training programs and continued in-service training programs.

Sheriff Heit would like to congratulate all four deputies for their hard work at the academies and stands beside all of the dedicated members of the Sheriff's Office to provide the best service to the Berrien County community.

Furthermore, Sheriff Heit would like to acknowledge and thank Director Brad Byerle and all of the faculty and staff at the Lake Michigan College Police Academy for their dedication to the profession.

The first one at Lake Michigan College since 1982, the police academy graduated 14 recruits from agencies in Berrien, Cass and Van Buren counties. — STAFF REPORTS

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Thursday bible study 7pm ET

Saturday men's bible study 915 ET in person and zoom

Saturday women's bible study 1030 ET on zoom

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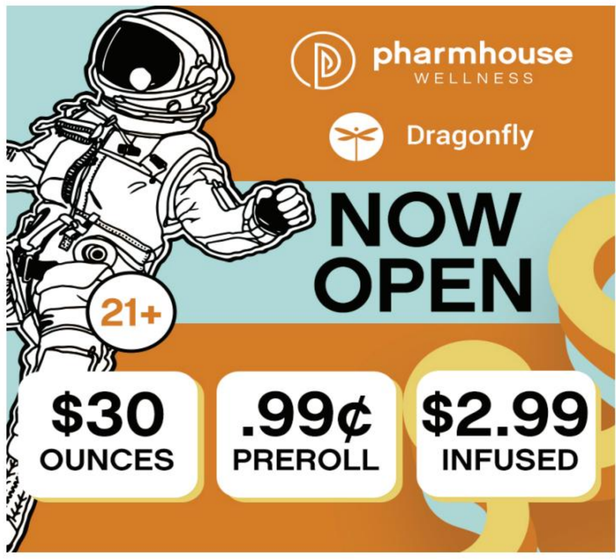

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